

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-9, 11, 15, 16, and 19 have been amended. Claims 6, 18 and 20 have been cancelled and have been incorporated into independent claims 1, 11 and 19, respectively. New claims 21-34 have been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-5, 7-17, 19, and 21-34 are pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 3-5, 9, 10, 15 and 16 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 3, 5, 9, 15 and 16 have been rewritten in independent form. Dependent claims 4 and 10 have not been amended as they depend from claims having allowable subject matter. New claims 21-34 depend on claims 3, 5, and 9 which all have allowable subject matter. Accordingly, pending claims 3-5, 9-10, 15-16 and 21-34 are allowable over the cited references.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103¹

Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 11-14, and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wetzler (U.S. Pat. No. 3,315,908) in view of Konrad et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 3, 519,214). The Office Action asserts that the apparatus for winding a web as disclosed in Wetzler can be combined with the positioning belts of Konrad et al., and that this combination provides a winding apparatus as claimed. With respect to original claims 6-8, 18 and 20, the Office Action further asserts that it would have been an "obvious matter of design choice . . . to dimension the web of Wetzler in view of Konrad et al." (Office Action, p. 3). With respect to original claims 11-14 and 17, the Office Action asserts that the claimed method would inherently result from the use of such a combined apparatus.

The rejection of the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully traversed. The applied references, alone or in combination, fail to provide each and

¹ The rejection of claims 6, 18 and 20 has been obviated by the cancellation of the claims. The cancellation of claims 6, 18, and 20 in the present application does not reflect on the patentability of the claims.

Applicants respectfully traverse the assertion that it would be obvious to use a web having a liquid add-on of at least 25% in the winding apparatus provided by the combination of Wetzler and Konrad et al. The winding of a web having a liquid add-on of at least 25% is not a trivial matter, and the difficulties of winding webs having the claimed liquid add-on are discussed throughout Applicants' specification. The strength of such a wet web is lower than that of a comparable dry web, and the wet web material is more susceptible to tearing or breaking than dry web material. [p. 7, lines 17 - 23]. The conversion of a winding apparatus or winding method intended for dry web materials into an apparatus or method useful for wet web materials is not as simple as changing the dimensions of the web, as asserted by the Office Action.

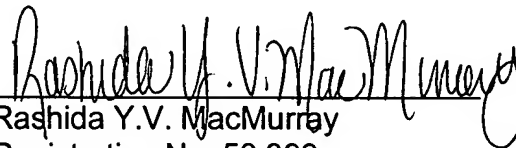
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references in order to wind a web having the claimed liquid add-on. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 7-8, 11-14, 17 and 19 are not obvious over Wetzler and Konrad et al.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, all of the grounds raised in the outstanding Office Action for rejecting the application are believed to be overcome or rendered moot based on the remarks and amendments above. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the presently presented claims are in form for allowance, and such action is requested in due course. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicant via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,


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